

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01253 220910Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 OMB-01 CU-02 /070 W

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P 211832Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1131

INFO CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: ARREST OF SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS

REF: MADRID 1214

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL PROVIDED ARMA BY OFFICIAL SOURCE IN ARMY MINISTRY. IN PREPARATION FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF ZARAGOSA ACADEMY CLASS OF 1949 TO BE HELD AT ACADEMY ON FEB 22, BUSQUETS AND NUMBER OF CLASSMATES HELD MEETING IN HEADQUARTERS CAPTAINCY GENERAL IN BARCELONA. SUCH MEETING NORMALLY DEAL WITH PROTOCOL MATTERS SUCH AS TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVED IN WHETHER FAMILIES ACCOMPANY, LODGING, ETC. AT ONE POINT DURING MEETING BUSQUETS ROSE TO PROTEST DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ANOTHER OFFICER BY BARCELONA CAPTAIN GENERAL SALVADOR BANULS NAVARRO, IN WHICH OFFICER GIVEN FOUR DAYS HOUSE ARREST FOR SOME INFRACTION OF DISCIPLINE. CAPTAIN JULVE, WHO ALONG WITH BUSQUETS HOLDS PART-TIME TEACHING POSITION AT BARCELONA'S AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BELLATERRA, AND WHO APPARENTLY HAD ACCOMPANIED BUSQUETS TO MEETING, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 01253 220910Z

JOINED IN PROTEST, ALTHOUGH THEY URGED OTHERS PRESENT

AT MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMON ACTION OF PROTEST OF WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS UNREASONABLE PUNISHMENT OF FELLOW OFFICER, THEY FAILED TO ENLIST ANY SUPPORT.

2. INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO BANULS NAVARRO WHO SLAPPED ONE MONTH PRISON ON BOTH OFFICERS FOR ACT OF PUBLIC INDISCIPLINE. (ACCORDING TO SPANISH MILITARY JUSTICE CODE, CG COULD HAVE IMPOSED MAXIMUM OF TWO MONTH SENTENCE WITHOUT NECESSITY FOR COURT MARTIAL.)

3. ANOTHER VERSION OF INCIDENT IS THAT MEETING WAS HELD FEB 15 IN LIBRARY OF CAPTAINCY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS WITH CG'S PERMISSION, TO PLAN FOR ANNUAL GATHERING OF ARMY ENGINEERS STATIONED IN BARCELONA AREA, TO BE HELD FEB 20. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY A LT. COL. WITH BUSQUETS, JULVE AND SEVERAL OTHERS. INCLUDING SPANISH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WITH HIDDEN TAPE RECORDER IN ATTENDANCE. BUSQUETS SAID TO HAVE MADE SUGGESTION THAT TOPIC FOR LECTURE AT ANNUAL MEETING BE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE REGARDING ARMY'S ROLE AS REGIME'S POLICE FORCE FOR MAINTENANCE OF ORDER IN SPAIN. HEATED DISCUSSION SAID TO HAVE ENSUED IN WHICH BUSQUETS CRITICIZED CG'S IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION AS DESCRIBED PARA 1 ABOVE. TAPE OF DISCUSSIONS LATER PLAYED FOR CG WHO PUT BUSQUETS AND JULVE UNDER ONE MONTHS CONFINEMENT TO QUARTERS.

4. WHILE ARMY MINISTRY'S VERSION APPEARS TOO PAT, LATTER VERSION FAILS TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO PLACE BUSQUETS UNDER SUCH SURVEILLANCE IN MEETING HELD WITH CG'S KNOWLEDGE IN HEADQUARTERS LIBRARY.

5. STILL THIRD VERSION BEING FILED BY AP CORRESPONDENT HAS IT THAT OFFICERS AT MEETING DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON 25 POINT ACTION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REMOVE ARMY FROM ANY DOMESTIC POLICE FORCE ROLE. BUSQUETS, HOWEVER, ADDED 26TH POINT WHICH WOULD PROTEST TO BANULS NAVARRO PEREMPTORY REASSIGNMENT OF OFFICER FROM BARCELONA TO CEUTA FOR REFUSING TO DEVULGE NAMES OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 01253 220910Z

BARCELONA METRO STRIKERS. OTHER OFFICERS REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS LATTER POINT, BANULS NAVARRO WAS INFORMED, AND BUSQUET ARRESTED.

6. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SORT OUT FACTS AND FIND OUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED AND MORE IMPORTANTLY DETERMINE WHETHER THE INCIDENT POSES ANY REAL SIGNIFICANCE. IN LATTER VEIN SEPARATE SOURCE IN SPAIN HIGH GEN. STAFF,

WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT MATTER HAD BEEN POORLY HANDLED. BUSQUETS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED ON CARPET WITH VERBAL CHEWING OUT. SOURCE INSISTED INCIDENT WAS ISOLATED AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTED DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN SPANISH MILITARY OFFICER CORPS, OR EVEN SMALL CELL OF SUCH OFFICERS IN BARCELONA. SIMILAR LINE TAKEN BY GUARDIA CIVIL CHIEF LT. GEN. VEGA, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY SOURCE LAST NIGHT. VEGA REPORTED TO FEEL THAT ARMY'S DELAY IN ANNOUNCING ARRESTS AND ITS REFUSAL TO GIVE MORE THAN BAREST DETAILS HAD NEIGHTENED PRESS SPECULATION THAT AFFAIR WAS SUBVERSIVE PLOT, WHICH HIS REPORTS INDICATED DEFINITELY WAS NOT.

7. COMMENT BUSQUETS HAS BEEN UNDER SOMETHING OF A CLOUD SINCE PUBTOSHING HIS PHD THESIS, A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF SPANISH ARMY ENTITLED "MILITARY CAREER IN SPAIN," WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE OFFENDED MANY CAREER OFFICERS WHO HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN HIM. IN ADDITION, A S AN OFFICER OF SOME INTELLECTUAL BENT WHO HOLDS DOWN TEACHING JOB IN ADDITION TO HIS NORMAL DUTIES AND HENCE WHO MINGLES WITH STUDENT ELEMENTS, IT IS QUITE LIKELY HE HARBORS VIEWS WHICH HIS ARMY SUPERIORS CONSIDER AS SUSPECT. WE ARE TOLD HE HAS BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR SOME TIME. PRESS INTERPRETATIONS SO FAR HABE TENDED TO MAKE MUCH OF FACTS THAT BUSQUETS SERVED UNDER DIEZ-ALEGRIA ON HIGH GENERAL STAFF AND, LIKE DIEZ-ALEGRIA, IS BOTH INTELLECTUAL AND ENGINEER.

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